

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OFFICE" at the top and "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. In the center, the date "MAY 27 2003" is stamped.

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and duplicative examination by the Patent Office, Applicant respectfully requests that the above policy be applied in the present application because the subject matter of the pending claims is sufficiently related.

For instance, each of the allegedly restricted groups is directed to compositions containing plant essential oils. Applicant respectfully submits that a thorough search for the claims in any one Group would necessarily overlap with a search of the claims in the remaining groups such that a search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Please grant any further extension of time necessary for entry of this communication. Please charge any deficient fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 500417.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 25, 2003

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